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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Military Information from the Schweinrich Group Training Grounds

EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

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-7 January 1954

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REFERENCES

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. Between 16 and 19 November 1953, source learned from local residents that not all of the units, which had been stationed at the Schweinrich troop training grounds during the summer months, had left. New units allegedly arrived at the training grounds about 3 weeks ago. The roads to Zechlin and Zempow were still blocked. Trucks loaded with boards and beams and driven by soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets, were seen en route toward the training grounds, coming from Schweinrich. Radio trucks were also seen proceeding toward the training grounds. an airfield was to be constructed between Schweinrich and Dranse. The pinpoint location of the area, which allegedly had been relinquished to the population of Schweinrich and vicinity for woodcutting, could not be determined.

2. At about 3 p.m. on 19 November, a helicopter dropped a small container while flying at a low altitude over Jagen (forest section) Nos 95 and 96 in Neuglienicke. Thereupon, all work was interrupted, the troops assembled in their camps, were loaded on trucks, and, at about 4:30 p.m., started leaving the area. The departure continued until 8 a.m. on 20 November. Clearing and leveling equipment remained in Jagen No 95.

few troops would arrive. All armored vehicles left with the troops toward Rheinsberg. The northern portion of the Schweinrich area was also vacated, except for a small rear detail. Demolition and leveling work, as well as the clearing of a strip, 3.5 km wide, continued south of the Schweinrich-Zechlin highway. The commander's sedan which was driven by a soldier wearing red-bordered black epaulets, was seen in this area. Between 7:30 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. on 23 November, 29 trucks, each occupied by about 30 to 35 troops, and 2 sedans occupied by officers entered Jagen Nos 95 and 96, coming from the direction of Neuruppin. In the meantime, the local population had demolished all bunkers. About 50 percent of the troops were equipped with spades, and were to level the area. This unit was not equipped with any track-laying vehicles. At about 4:30 p.m. on 23 November, about 50 percent of the newly arrived troops left toward Rheinsberg.

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4. Military shipments observed at the Wittstock railroad station between 14 and 21 November included:

14 November. At about 7 p.m., 2 prime movers with crossed gun barrels and tactical symbol [redacted] were entrained. They had arrived from the direction of Dranse and left toward Pritzwalk at 8 p.m.

19 November. At 12:40 p.m., a shipment, including prime movers [redacted] coming from the direction of Dranse and proceeding toward Pritzwalk.

20 November. At 2:25 p.m., a shipment of 10 boxcars occupied by troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, 5 flatcars loaded with timber and 10 flatcars carrying 1 canvas-covered tank and 12 to 15 trucks [redacted] coming from the direction of Dranse and proceeding toward Pritzwalk.

21 November. A shipment of 6 trucks, [redacted] at 12:15 p.m. and at 2:45 p.m., a shipment of 3 boxcars occupied by troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, 4 flatcars with timber, and 6 flatcars carrying 1 T-34 tank without turret, 1 T-34/35 tank and 8 trucks, [redacted] coming from the direction of Dranse and proceeding toward Pritzwalk.

At 1:45 p.m. on 21 November, a locomotive from the airfield picked up 2 flatcars, each carrying 1 truck [redacted] and proceeded toward Pritzwalk.

5. On 23 November, the Schweinrich troop training ground was occupied by a rear detail which [redacted] was quartered in the cantonment at Philipp's Lake. Between 29 October and 23 November, a few trucks carrying ration-supply boxes and beer bottles were daily observed en route between Wittstock and Schweinrich. The Schweinrich-Zachlin road was no longer blocked.

6. On 23 November [redacted] a forest lane was being cut from the Gadow training grounds toward Neuruppin. Work was performed by German workers and Soviet troops, who came from Schweinrich. The stumps were blown up and were burned, and the trunks were hauled away by the local population. [redacted] work was being pushed forward. [redacted] the lane was to serve as runway for jet aircraft.

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